

March 25, 2003

Dear Community Member,

The Olivenhain Dam project grows closer to completion. The construction of the Inlet/Outlet Tower is nearly complete and is taller than the top of the dam. The Olivenhain Pump Station is also under construction and is expected to be complete by the end of this year. The pump station will help fill and empty the reservoir and move water through the Olivenhain Pipelines, serving as an integral component to dam operations.

Last month we updated you on the possible purchase of generators to provide emergency power during a catastrophic event such as an earthquake. The location of the generators has been changed due to environmental issues. The proposed location is near the top of the dam on the downstream side. Site and sound walls are being designed to encapsulate the emergency generators. These generators are only for emergency use during an electrical power outage at the site.

The Olivenhain Surge Control Pipe is in the final stages of design and construction is planned to begin in April or May. This 2,000-foot-long pipe will be approximately 12 feet in diameter and will be completely buried. It will extend in a perpendicular direction from the Olivenhain Pipeline, near the pump station and water treatment plant, up toward the right abutment of the dam. In the event of a sudden power loss, the surge control pipe will serve to collect the water being pumped into the reservoir and protect the pump station from potentially damaging back flow. To excavate the trench for the surge control pipe, controlled blasting with very small charges may be necessary. If needed, this blasting would be much smaller than the blasts during dam construction and should not be felt beyond 500 feet of the blast. Any blasting would be conducted during the week between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

A state-of-the-art PVC membrane liner, called a Carpi liner, is currently being installed on the upstream side of the dam. The liner will serve as an additional precaution to prevent water seepage characteristic of all dams. It will also serve as a back up system against leaking in the event of an earthquake, which may create hairline cracks in the dam. The liner should be completely installed by September.

Environmental mitigation work along Escondido Creek has been rescheduled to begin in September. The work was postponed due to recent rains, permitting issues and the approaching gnatcatcher mating season. The goal of this project is to remove non-native plants such as eucalyptus trees that displace native species on 95 acres of habitat along Escondido Creek between the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve and the intersection of Harmony Grove Road and Elfin Forest Road.

The removal of the temporary traffic signal at the construction site entrance is scheduled for May. Work to restore the intersection of Harmony Grove Road and Via Ambiente to its original condition may begin as early as April.

Please feel free to contact us toll-free at 1-877-426-2010. A staff member is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and we can be paged at the same number if an emergency arises after business hours.

Sincerely,



Jerry Reed
Project Manager
Olivenhain Dam